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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

## ZOMBIE'S REVENGE



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OF BLACK HOLLOW**

HUGHES

**THE UNDYING BRAIN**



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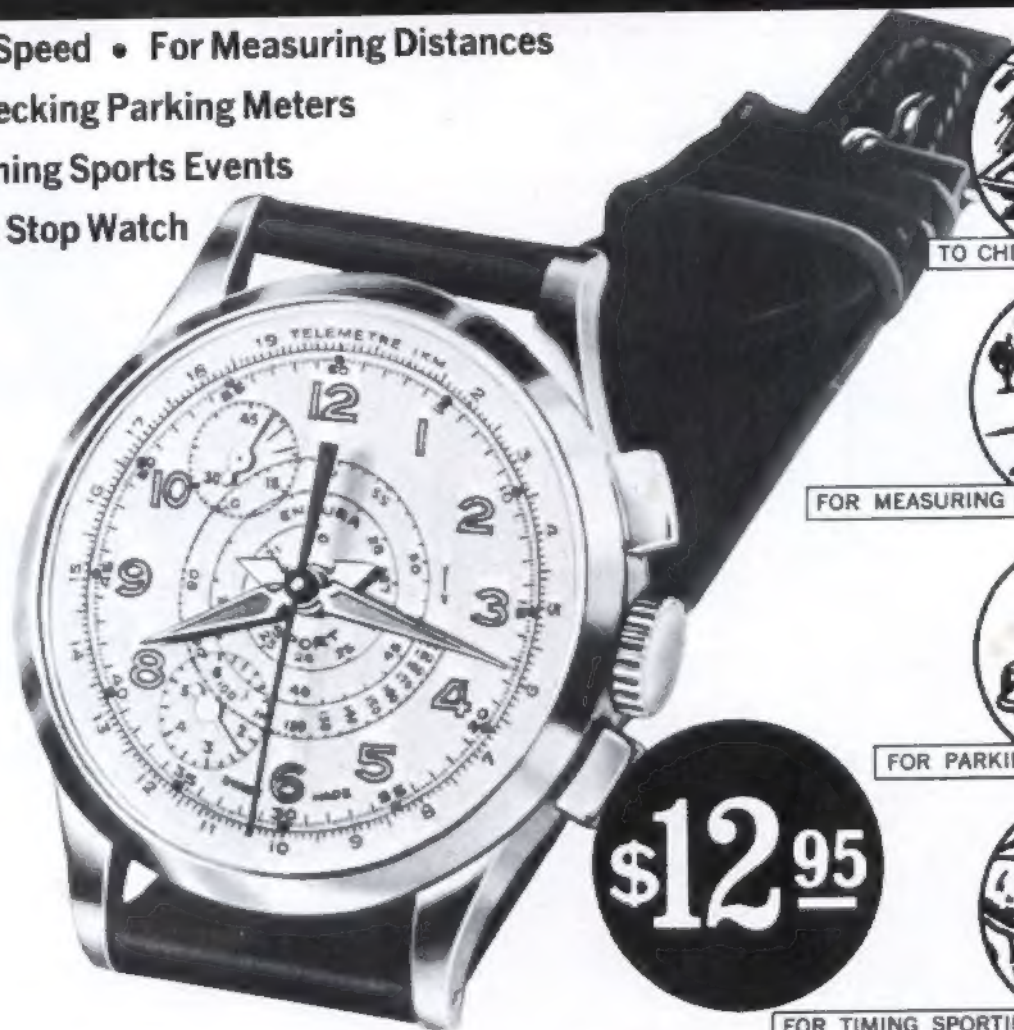
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CHILLING TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE

MAY 1970

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# The ZOMBIE'S REVENGE

THROUGH THE GHOSTLY STILLNESS, A GRUESOME SHAPE CREEPS NEAR! AND IN THE HOUSE, THE SMILING DINERS SIT, BLIND TO THE GHASTLY SPECTRE THAT STALKS THEM IN THE NIGHT, THE ICY HAND WHICH REACHES FROM ANOTHER WORLD TO MARK ONE OF THEIR NUMBER FOR-- THE ZOMBIE'S REVENGE!



WHATEVER IS THAT DOG HOWLING ABOUT?

OWOOOOO...

SINCE YOU'RE TO BE ONE OF THE FAMILY, TOM, YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OUR FAMILY SKELETON! I HAVE A TWIN BROTHER, ARMAND, A BLACK SHEEP OF THE VILEST SORT! TODAY I RECEIVED WORD THAT HE'S BEEN HUNG FOR MURDER IN HAITI!

IT'S MARIE, I'M MARRYING, MR. DUPREZ -- NOT YOUR FAMILY SKELETON! -- HOLY SMOKE, THAT DOG SOUNDS TERRIFIED!

AS THE COWERING DOG HOWLS A TERRIFIED WARNING, THE GHASTLY FIGURE TURNS ON IT WITH UNHURRIED MALICE, AND...

MEDDLING BEAST!

OWOOOOOO!



YIPE!

THEN, AT THE SOUND OF HUMAN FOOTSTEPS, THE GRISLY VISITOR TAKES REFUGE IN THE MURKY SHADOWS!

MON DIEU! IT-- IT CANNOT BE!



IT'S INCREDIBLE... REX HAS FOUGHT MOUNTAIN LIONS! YET SOMETHING HAS SNAPPED HIS NECK LIKE A TWIG!

DID YOU SEE ANYTHING, LUCIEN?

NOTHING, MONSIEUR!

WHAT THESE OLD EYES THOUGHT THEY SAW, NONE WOULD BELIEVE!



BUT LUCIEN'S SILENCE REAPED A GRIM REWARD! THAT NIGHT, IN THE OLD GARDENER'S HUT...

MY MIND IS MADE UP... EVEN THOUGH THEY THINK ME CRAZY, I MUST TELL THEM WHAT I SAW!

TOO LATE, OLD LUCIEN!



I WAS RIGHT! I... ARGHH!

FOOL! YOU-- REMEMBER -- TOO MUCH!



AN INHUMAN LAUGH MOCKS THE STILLNESS OF THE NIGHT! THE GHASTLY FORM VANISHES INTO THE SHADOWS... LEAVING THE AIR BEHIND HIM HEAVY WITH THE TAINTED ODOR OF DEATH AND EVIL!



DAYLIGHT LAID BARE THE FIENDISH CRIME -- AND SLOWLY THE CLAMMY FINGERS OF RISING TERROR GRIPPED THE DUPREZ FAMILY!

IT'S INSANE! WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KILL A HARMLESS, DEAF OLD MAN?

IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT WE KEEP NO MONEY OR VALUABLES ON THE ESTATE... THIS IS THE WORK OF A MANIAC!



AND NOT A CLUE! ONLY THAT HORRIBLE, MUSTY ODOR, AND A SHRED OF NON-DESCRIPT CLOTH!

I DON'T AGREE WITH YOU... THIS TOMB-LIKE ODOR ITSELF IS SIGNIFICANT! I SMELLED IT ONCE IN A MAMBA TEMPLE IN JAMAICA! AND THIS SHROUD-LIKE CLOTH IS MADE OF CANELA BARK... SEE HOW IT CRUMBLES IN MY FINGERS?



ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT MAN MIGHT HAVE COMMITTED THESE GHASTLY CRIMES?

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT THIS IS NOT THE WORK OF A **MAN**, AT ALL! PREPARE FOR A SHOCK... UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THIS IS THE WORK OF A SUPERNATURAL BEING... **A ZOMBIE!**

BUT THAT'S **ABSDURD**, TOM! WHAT WOULD A **ZOMBIE** WANT WITH **US?**

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT!

NONGENSE, TOM! YOU'VE LET THOSE BOOKS ON VOODOO YOU'VE BEEN READING WARP YOUR JUDGMENT!



I'M A CHEMICAL MANUFACTURER... I DEAL WITH **SCIENCE**, NOT **SUPERSTITION!** WHOEVER IS IN BACK OF THIS WILL CHANGE HIS MIND WHEN HE FINDS I'VE GOT THE ESTATE SWARMING WITH GUARDS ARMED WITH MACHINE GUNS!

WELL, I'VE GOT TO BE GETTING DOWN TO THE PLANT! WE'RE EXPERIMENTING WITH A NEW ACID! I'M GOING TO LET THE POLICE HANDLE THIS MATTER, TOM, AND I'D ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME!

MARIE, AT LEAST YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME! I TELL YOU, YOU AND YOUR FATHER MAY FACE A DANGER THAT NO POLICE FORCE CAN PROTECT YOU FROM!

I'M AFRAID I AGREE WITH FATHER, TOM! YOU'RE LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU!



ONE DAY, THEN TWO, CREEP BY... WHILE THE LURKING EVIL AWAITS, WITH GRIM PATIENCE, THE MOMENT TO **STRIKE AGAIN!**

WHOEVER IT WAS... MY GUARDS HAVE FRIGHTENED HIM OFF! WHY... THERE'S THAT RANK, FETID **ODOR** AGAIN! IT MUST COME FROM THE **SWAMP!**



SOUNDLESS AS THE TREAD OF DOOM, THE GRISLY FORM ADVANCES!



THEN, WITH SUPERHUMAN FORCE...

OH-HH! **POW!**







FOR AN INSTANT, MARIE'S HORRIFIED EYES ARE FROZEN ON THE CREATURE'S AWFUL FACE!



AS MARIE'S TERRIFIED SCREAMS ATTRACT ATTENTION, HER GRIM PURSUER VANISHES!



IT'S INCREDIBLE, TOM... BUT HE ...HE LOOKED LIKE FATHER!

NOT INCREDIBLE AT ALL, MARIE-- I THINK THAT'S THE CLUE WE NEED! BUT FIRST LET'S GET TO YOUR FATHER!



DON'T BE HYSTERICAL, MARIE-- NOTHING COULD HAVE GOT PAST MY GUARDS! I MUST HAVE BUMPED MY HEAD ON A LOW BRANCH!



WHAT WILL WE DO, TOM... HE'S TOO STUBBORN TO LISTEN!

UNTIL WE FIND OUT WHAT THE ZOMBIE'S **PURPOSE** IS, WE'RE HELPLESS TO COMBAT HIM! I HOPE THERE'LL BE AN ANSWER IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE OCCULT AT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY! WE MAY NOT HAVE MUCH TIME!

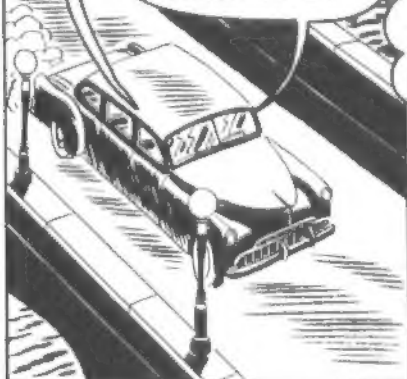
TOGETHER, THEY LEAF FRANTICALLY THROUGH THE DUSTY TOMES!

BUT THE ZOMBIE'S ACTIONS DON'T MAKE SENSE... FIRST REX... THEN OLD LUCIEN...

**EXACTLY, MARIE!** BESIDES YOUR FATHER, THOSE WERE THE ONLY TWO LIVING BEINGS WHO MIGHT HAVE REMEMBERED HIM! I'M CONVINCED THAT THE ZOMBIE IS ARMAND DUPREZ-- **YOUR FATHER'S IDENTICAL TWIN!**

**FANTASTIC!** IT'S TRUE ARMAND WAS INVOLVED IN VODOO WORSHIP IN HAITI BEFORE HE WAS KILLED... BUT WHY SHOULD HE COME BACK TO PLAGUE US!

THE ANSWER IS HERE IN THIS BOOK, MARIE! IT SAYS THAT A ZOMBIE WHO HAS AN **IDENTICAL TWIN** CAN RETURN TO LIFE BY **DESTROYING HIS BROTHER AND TAKING HIS PLACE!**



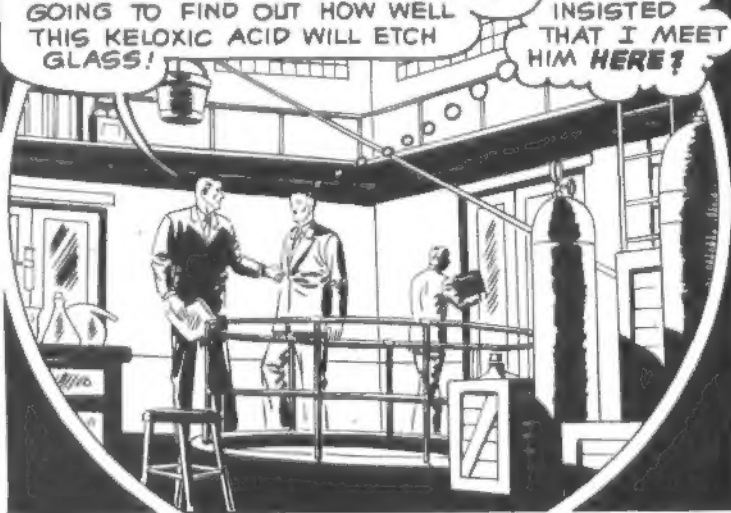
BUT WHY DID YOU PHONE FATHER TO MEET US AT THE PLANT?

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW! IT'S A SLIM CHANCE, BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY IT!

MEANWHILE, AT THE DUPREZ CHEMICAL PLANT...

GLAD YOU DECIDED TO COME DOWN FOR THE TESTS, MR. DUPREZ! WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT HOW WELL THIS KELOXIC ACID WILL ETCH GLASS!

I WONDER WHY TOM INSISTED THAT I MEET HIM **HERE?**



SUDDENLY A DREAD WARNING SOUNDS THROUGH THE PLANT...

GOOD GRIEF... **THE ALARM BELL!** SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG! WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE PLACE BLOWS UP!

COME ON, MR. DUPREZ, RUN FOR IT!

GO AHEAD, JOE... IT'S MY DUTY TO STAY UNTIL EVERYONE IS OUT SAFELY!

**CLANG! CLANG!**

BUT AS THE WORKERS FLEE THE EXPECTED EXPLOSION, CHARLES DUPREZ UNSUSPECTINGLY PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF A DANGER INFINITELY

EVERYONE'S OUT NOW-- I GUESS I CAN LEAVE!

SETTING OFF-- THE ALARM-- GOT RID-- OF THE FOOLS... THERE WON'T-- BE ANY WITNESSES-- **THIS TIME!**

**MORE HORRIBLE!**







GREAT SCOTT--  
ARMAND! YOU...  
A ZOMBIE!

YES-- MY STUPID  
BROTHER... A  
ZOMBIE!  
BUT NOT-- FOR  
LONG!



BY THE DICTATES OF MALA-- AND THE LAW-- OF THE  
WALKING-DEAD-- I, YOUR **TWIN**--SHALL CLAIM--  
YOUR **LIFE**! FIRST, I'LL TAKE--YOUR CLOTHES--  
AND THEN THE ACID-- YOU SO THOUGHTFULLY PRO-  
VIDED-- WILL DESTROY YOUR BODY-- WITHOUT A  
TRACE! NO ONE  
WILL SUSPECT--  
THAT A **NEW**  
CHARLES  
DUPREZ-- HAS  
INHERITED  
YOUR LIFE--  
AND  
FORTUNE!

NO--NO!



AT THAT MOMENT...

TOM...  
LOOK!  
HE'S  
HERE!

IT'S HAPPENED  
SOONER THAN I  
COUNTED ON! THIS  
CALLS FOR  
**DESPERATE**  
**MEASURES!**

LIKE THE HAND OF FATE, THE MAS-  
SIVE CABLE BUCKET HURTTLES  
DOWN ON THE GRINNING MON-  
STER WITH UNERRING AIM!



YAGH!



BENEATH  
THE SUR-  
FACE, THE  
ACID  
SEETHES  
AND  
BOILS  
AS THE  
FORCES  
OF NATURE  
GRAPPLE  
IN DEADLY  
CONFLICT  
WITH THE  
PRODUCT OF  
ANOTHER  
WORLD!

I'M AFRAID WE'VE  
WON ONLY A TEM-  
PORARY RESPITE!  
NOT EVEN ACID  
CAN DESTROY A  
**ZOMBIE!**

**THIS** ACID CAN!  
YOUR FATHER ONCE  
TOLD ME THAT IT'S A  
**NEW TYPE!** A BASIC  
INGREDIENT IS SALT  
EXTRACTED FROM  
CARIBBEAN KELP... WHICH  
VOODOO WORSHIPPERS  
HAVE USED FOR YEARS  
AS A PROTECTION  
AGAINST ZOMBIES!  
THAT'S WHY I  
GAMBLLED EVERY-  
THING ON LURING  
THE ZOMBIE  
DOWN HERE!

THE GRISLY  
DRAMA  
REACHES  
ITS  
CLIMAX...  
AND SLOWLY  
THE  
WRITHING  
SHAPE  
DISSOLVES!  
AND, AS THE  
BUBBLING  
SURFACE  
OF THE  
LIQUID  
CALMS,  
ITS  
CLEAR,  
TRAN-  
SLUCENT  
DEPTHS  
ARE  
**EMPTY!**

HE'S GONE, THANK  
HEAVENS! TOM,  
TO THINK WE  
DIDN'T BELIEVE  
YOUR WARNINGS!  
NEXT TIME, I'LL  
TAKE YOUR  
WORD ON  
THESE  
THINGS!

LET'S HOPE  
THERE'LL NEVER  
BE A "NEXT  
TIME"! **ONE**  
ZOMBIE IN THE  
FAMILY IS  
**ENOUGH!**



THE  
END

# CANARIS, the Cunning

AT THE TENDER AGE OF 25, WALTER WILHELM CANARIS WAS A COMMANDER OF THE GERMAN CRUISER **DRESDEN** IN 1914-- BUT WITHIN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY, HE WAS TO BE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD-- THE HEAD OF THE NAZI SECRET SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II!



CAUGHT ON THE HIGH SEAS AT THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR I, CANARIS WAS FORCED TO BRING HIS SHIP TO NEUTRAL CHILE, WHERE HE WAS INTERNED! BUT THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND WOULDN'T LET SUCH A PROMISING YOUNG OFFICER SPEND THE WAR YEARS IN CAPTIVITY...

AS A GERMAN SECRET SERVICE OFFICER, I AM AUTHORIZED TO HELP YOU ESCAPE-- IF YOU AGREE TO JOIN THE IMPERIAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE!

AGREED!



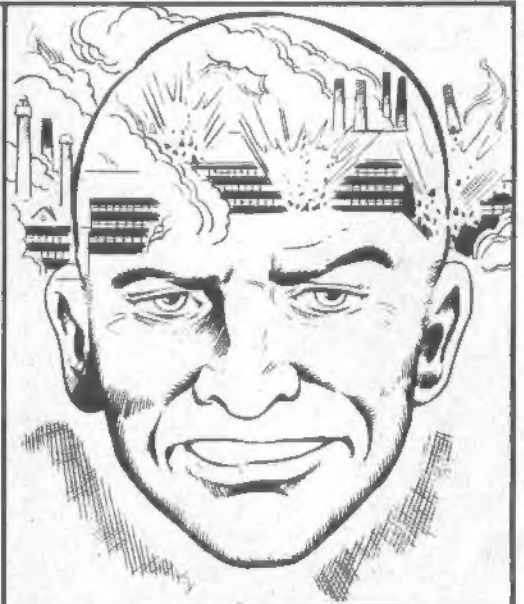
THE VERY NEXT NIGHT, CANARIS WAS A FREE MAN!



WHEN AMERICA ENTERED THE WAR, CANARIS WAS HASTILY ORDERED TO SPAIN-- WHERE HE SPIED ON ALLIED SHIPPING AND PLANNED GERMAN SUBMARINE BASES ALONG THE SPANISH COAST!



UNDER THE ALIAS OF OTTO SELIGER, CANARIS CAME TO NEW YORK, WHERE HE WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF GERMAN SABOTEURS! IN THIS CAPACITY, CANARIS PLANNED THE SABOTAGING OF THE CANADIAN CAR AND FOUNDRY COMPANY IN 1916!



LATER, AS GERMAN NAVAL ATTACHE TO SPAIN, HE WAS STRUCK BY THE BEAUTY OF A DANCER HE SAW IN THE MADRID NIGHTCLUB, TROCADERO--

THE DANCER, SEÑOR? SHE IS KNOWN AS MATA HARI!

ASK HER TO COME TO MY TABLE WHEN HER PERFORMANCE IS OVER!





YES, IT WAS CANARIS WHO FIRST REALIZED THE POTENTIALITIES THAT MATA HARI HAD AS A **SPY**!

I WILL MAKE YOU RICH BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS! ALL YOU NEED DO IS GO TO PARIS, WHERE I WILL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO DANCE AT THE FAMED MOULIN ROUGE -- AND WHERE YOUR EXOTIC LOVELINESS WILL CAPTURE THE HEARTS OF HIGH FRENCH OFFICERS!

AH, AND THEN I AM TO GET THEM TO CONFIDE SECRETS TO ME-- SECRETS WHICH I WILL PASS ON TO YOU, NO?

AS CANARIS HAD FORESEEN, MATA HARI BECAME THE RAGE OF PARIS -- AND THE CONFIDANTE OF MANY A HIGH-RANKING FRENCH OFFICER!

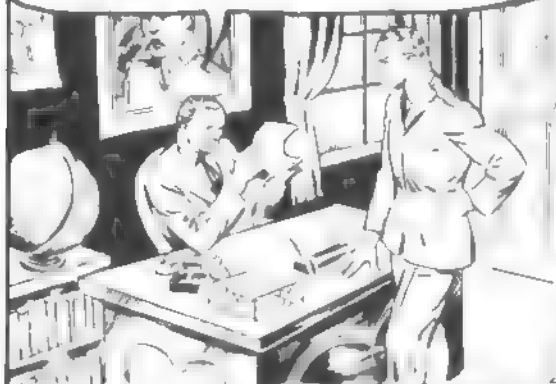


BUT WHEN FRENCH INTELLIGENCE AGENTS LEARNED ABOUT MATA HARI'S TREACHERY, THE SPY FLED IN FEAR BACK TO THE GERMAN EMBASSY-- TO THE MAN WHO HAD HIRED HER!

SOON-- THAT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS, TO EMPLOY MATA HARI AS A SPY, CANARIS! LOOK AT THESE SECRETS SHE'S SENT BACK -- ALLIED DEFENSE PLANS, TROOP MOVEMENTS, OFFENSE PLANS---

BUT... BUT THE FRENCH KNOW I AM A GERMAN SPY -- IT WOULD BE SUICIDE FOR ME TO RETURN TO PARIS!

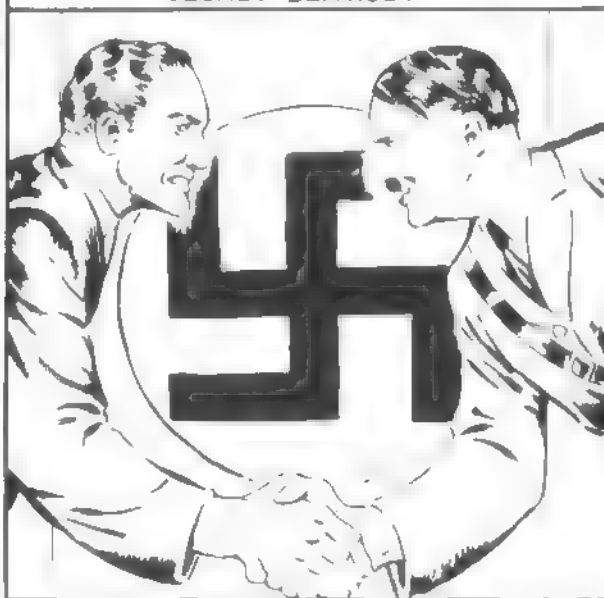
YOU ARE OF NO USE TO US HERE-- YOU **MUST** RETURN TO PARIS, NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES!



SO THE TEARFUL SPY RETURNED-- TO A FRENCH FIRING SQUAD! BUT CANARIS' CAREER CONTINUED ON, EVEN AFTER THE WAR HAD BEEN LOST! LITTLE WAS HEARD OF THE SPYMASTER AGAIN UNTIL 1923, WHEN HE SUDDENLY APPEARED AS ONE OF HITLER'S COLLABORATORS IN THE INFAMOUS BEER HALL PUTSCH!



TEN YEARS LATER, WHEN HITLER SEIZED POWER, ADMIRAL WALTER WILHELM CANARIS BECAME HEAD OF THE GERMAN SECRET SERVICE!



THE SPY CHIEF SOON BECAME KNOWN AS **CANARIS, THE CUNNING!** ONE OF HIS WILDEST ACHIEVEMENTS TOOK PLACE IN 1938, WHEN HE HEARD FROM HIS SPIES THAT THE BRITISH WERE ABOUT TO TEST A NEW VICKERS-WELLESLEY MONOPLANE--

I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE PLANE WILL TAKE OFF FROM FARNBOROUGH EXPERIMENTAL AIRPORT AT 9:15 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 16TH-- AND THE TEST FLIGHT WILL BE OVER THE NORTH SEA!

GOOD! WE WILL HAVE OUR SUBMARINES PATROLLING THE AREA, ARMED WITH THREE-INCH ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS!



WHEN THE NEW PLANE APPEARED OVER THE NAZI SUBS--

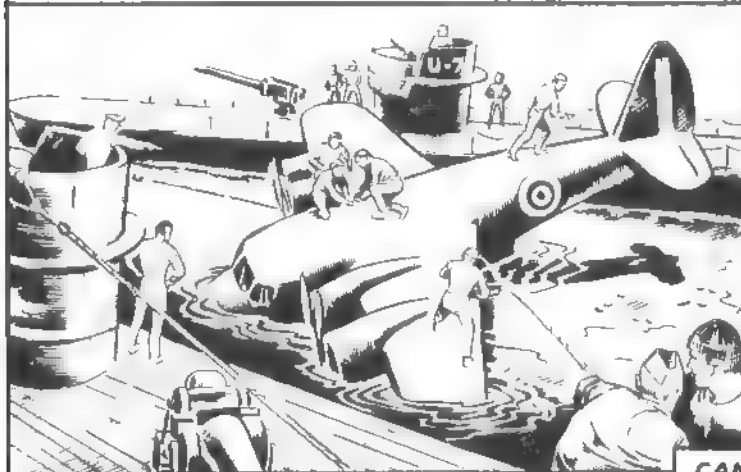


WE'RE HIT! PREPARE TO CRASH-LAND!

ACK! ACK! ACK!



THE FATE OF THE BRITISH PILOTS WAS NEVER DISCOVERED-- BUT THE PLANE WAS DISMANTLED RIGHT ON THE HIGH SEAS, AND THE PIECES WERE CARRIED BY THE SUBMARINES BACK TO GERMANY FOR STUDY!



OTHER COUPS ENGINEERED BY CANARIS BEFORE THE START OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR WERE--

HERE ARE THE TOTAL MOBILIZATION ORDERS OF THE FRENCH NAVY! YOU ARE GETTING THEM EVEN BEFORE THEY ARE SIGNED BY ADMIRAL DARLAN! **HEIL HITLER!**

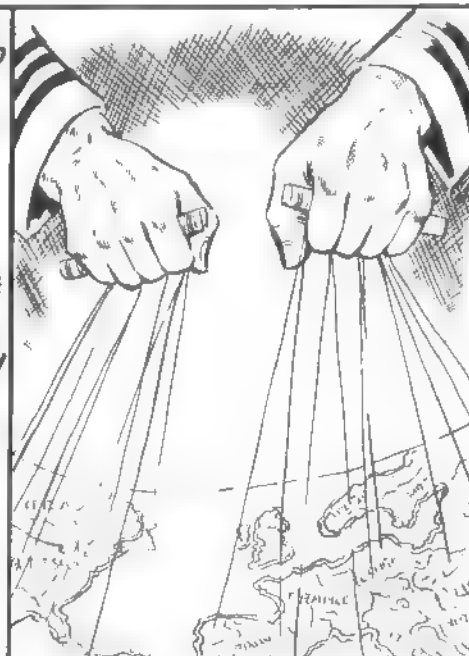


HEIL HITLER!

AND-- HA-- THE COMPLETE PLANS FOR THE CO-ORDINATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY AND AIR FORCE! WHAT A MAGNIFICENT SPY NETWORK I HAVE!



CANARIS HAD INDEED WOVEN A MAGNIFICENT NETWORK OF SPIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD-- AND THERE WAS SCARCELY A COUNTRY THAT DID NOT FEEL THE EFFECT OF HIS EVIL GENIUS!



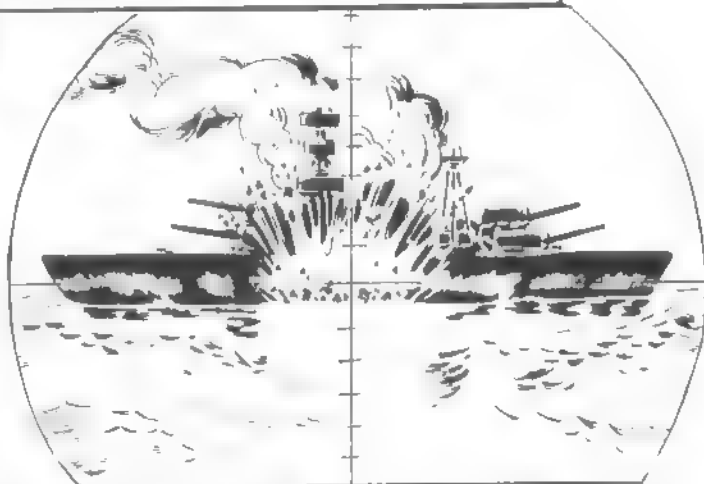


A MONTH AFTER THE START OF WORLD WAR II, ONE OF CANARIS' SPIES CLUNG TO A ROCKY CLIFF ON THE COAST OF SCOTLAND, SIGNALLING TO A NAZI SUB LYING OFF SHORE--

R-O-Y-A-L-O-A-K-B-A-S-E-D-A-T-S-C-A-P-A-F-L-O-W!



A FEW DAYS LATER, A NAZI U-BOAT STOLE INTO SCAPA FLOW, AND ITS TORPEDOES SANK THE MIGHTY BRITISH BATTLESHIP **ROYAL OAK**! CANARIS HAD CHALKED UP ANOTHER VICTORY!



WHEN JAPAN ENTERED THE WAR IN 1941, CANARIS SET UP AN INTRICATE WEB OF SPIES THAT STRETCHED FROM THE NEAR EAST THROUGH MONGOLIA INTO BURMA AND INDO-CHINA! ESPIONAGE CARAVANS DOTTED THE GREAT ASIATIC DESERTS SEPARATING THE AXIS POWERS, AND EACH ONE OF THEM WAS EQUIPED WITH PORTABLE ULTRA-SHORT-WAVE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO PASS ON INFORMATION TO EITHER BERLIN OR TOKYO!



BUT IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT GERMANY WAS DOOMED, BECAUSE OF HITLER'S BLUNDERING MISTAKES! SO--

I'VE CALLED THIS SECRET MEETING BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU, TOO, ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAY ADOLF IS LEADING US TO DISASTER! BEFORE WE CAN TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY AND LEAD IT TO VICTORY, WE MUST **ASSASSINATE DER FÜHRER!**



THEY SCHEMED TO KILL HITLER AT HIS WEEKLY STAFF CONFERENCE, AND PLANTED A TIME-BOMB BENEATH THE MAP-TABLE! BUT HITLER WAS DELAYED THAT FATEFUL DAY AND NARROWLY ESCAPED THE FATE THAT BEFELL A FEW OF HIS GENERALS!



HITLER RELENTLESSLY FERRETED OUT THE LEADERS OF THE ABORTIVE PLOT-- AND EXECUTED THEM ALL! THUS, CANARIS, THE CUNNING, MET AN END THAT WAS BEFITTING A MASTER OF TREACHERY!



# The UNDYING BRAIN



A MAN SITS IN A LONELY LABORATORY ATOP A DESOLATE MOUNTAIN, LIVING OUT THE LAST FLEETING SECONDS OF HIS LIFE! AND IN THE PAGES HE WRITES LIES A TRAGIC STORY OF AMBITION, HATE--AND MURDER! COME SHARE HIS TORTURED THOUGHTS IN THESE LAST FLEETING MOMENTS, BEFORE HIS FINGER TENSES AND THERE IS AN END AT LAST TO--THE UNDYING BRAIN!

THE EERIE TALE BEGAN BACK IN 1930, WHEN JOHN HARLEY, BRILLIANT YOUNG BRAIN SURGEON, ANSWERED A STRANGE MIDNIGHT CALL...

GLAD YOU'RE HERE AT LAST! THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN VERY ILL!

THIS WILL BE QUITE A FEATHER IN MY PROFESSIONAL CAP-- ATTENDING A CABINET MEMBER!



I HAVEN'T-- MUCH TIME LEFT, DOCTOR! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE WHAT I TELL YOU! AND I MUST HAVE YOUR OATH--THAT WHAT WE SAY IN THIS ROOM WILL REMAIN SECRET!

OF COURSE! BUT I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND...



YOU WILL-- WHEN I TELL YOU! BEFORE I DIE-- YOU MUST OPERATE ON ME-- REMOVE MY BRAIN AND GIVE IT TO A MAN I WILL DESIGNATE! YOU UNDERSTAND-- MY BRAIN MUST NOT DIE WITH ME!





SENSES REELING, JOHN HARLEY LISTENED AS THE DYING MAN UNFOLDED A WEIRD STORY...



MY BRAIN--ISN'T THE SAME ONE I WAS BORN WITH! I GOT IT--AS A YOUNG MAN--FROM ONE WHO WAS DYING JUST AS I AM NOW! HE PASSED IT ON--AS I MUST DO! TELL ME, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE LEGEND ABOUT THE-- THE UNDYING BRAIN?

I REMEMBER SOMETHING--BUT ISN'T IT JUST A STORY OUT OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

A LEGEND? HARDLY! THE BRAIN FIRST BELONGED TO A GREEK PHILOSOPHER NAMED AVATOS! ON HIS DEATHBED--



HASTEN! AVATOS CANNOT LIVE MUCH LONGER!

THIS IS A DARING THING WE DO! MAY IT PLEASE THE GODS THAT THE BRAIN OF OUR OLD FRIEND LIVES ON IN ANOTHER BODY!

THAT WAS IN 320 B.C.! AND THE BRAIN DIDN'T DIE! A HUNDRED YEARS LATER IT WAS IN THE POSSESSION OF A FAMOUS GREEK GENERAL...



THE ENEMY IS ROUTED--IT'S ANOTHER GREAT VICTORY! YOU'RE THE GREATEST SOLDIER IN THE WORLD!

THANKS TO THE BRAIN! IF THEY ONLY KNEW--HOW I HOLD THE WISDOM AND LEARNING OF ALMOST TWO CENTURIES WITHIN ME!



DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES--THE BRAIN WAS PASSED! IT WAS NEVER--ALLOWED TO DIE! IT PASSED FROM SOLDIERS TO KINGS, TO LAWYERS, STATESMEN, ALL MEN WHO MADE HISTORY! IF ONLY--I HAD TIME TO TELL YOU THE NAMES--OF THE FAMOUS MEN WHO HAVE OWNED IT...

INCREDIBLE! BUT SOMEHOW I BELIEVE HIM!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE NIGHT I RECEIVED THE BRAIN! I WAS A YOUNG MAN, JUST STARTING IN POLITICS...



IT'S TRUE! IT'S HAPPENING! SOON HE'LL OPERATE ON ME AND I'LL HAVE THE BRAIN--TO USE AS LONG AS I LIVE!

YES, IT'S MADE ME POWERFUL, FAMOUS! NOW I MUST KEEP--THE PROMISE I MADE--TO PASS IT ON--TO A YOUNGER MAN! I'LL TELL YOU HIS NAME, DOCTOR--JUST BEFORE THE OPERATION



YOU MEAN I'M TO DO THE OPERATION? TRANSFER THE BRAIN TO A MAN YOU SELECT?

YES! NOW HURRY--AND MAKE YOUR ARRANGEMENTS, HARLEY! THERE ISN'T--MUCH TIME! IF I DIE--BEFORE YOU OPERATE--THE BRAIN IS LOST FOREVER!



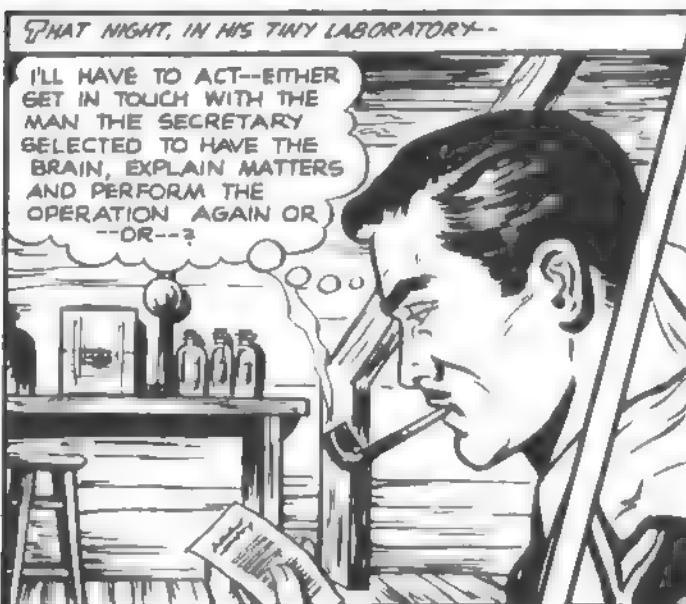
AND SO, TWO DAYS LATER, JOHN HARLEY SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMED THE MOST IMPORTANT OPERATION OF HIS CAREER!



I DID IT! AND I CAN DO WHAT EARLIER SURGEONS COULDN'T--KEEP THE BRAIN ALIVE WITH PLASMA! KEEP IT ALIVE--UNTIL--I DECIDE--



YES, THE SECRETARY'S DEAD! NOBODY TO KNOW--NOBODY TO ASK QUESTIONS--BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE BRAIN! I'VE GOT IT HERE IN THIS PACKAGE--READY FOR--



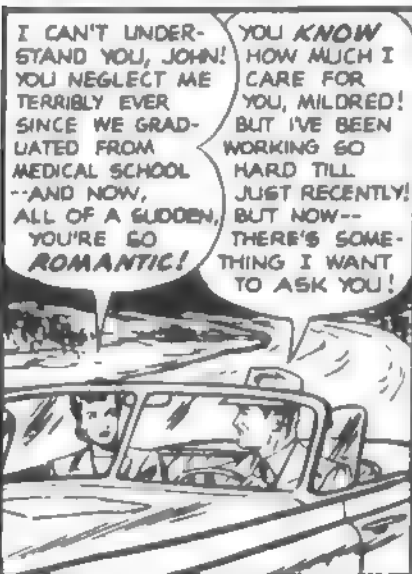
THAT NIGHT, IN HIS TINY LABORATORY--

I'LL HAVE TO ACT--EITHER GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MAN THE SECRETARY SELECTED TO HAVE THE BRAIN, EXPLAIN MATTERS AND PERFORM THE OPERATION AGAIN OR --OR--?



I WON'T DO IT! I'VE GOT AS MUCH RIGHT TO THE BRAIN AS ANYONE! I'VE EARNED IT! BUT --I CAN'T OPERATE ON MYSELF!

IT DIDN'T TAKE JOHN HARLEY LONG TO THINK OF A SCHEME...



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, JOHN! YOU NEGLECT ME TERRIBLY EVER SINCE WE GRADUATED FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL --AND NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU'RE SO ROMANTIC!

YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE FOR YOU, MILDRED! BUT I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TILL JUST RECENTLY! BUT NOW--THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU!



MARRY YOU? I DO LOVE YOU --BUT A ROMANCE BETWEEN TWO SURGEONS--I JUST DON'T KNOW!

YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A GREAT SURGEON, DEAR--

YOU'RE THE WOMAN I LOVE! PLEASE MARRY ME!



AND SO THEY WERE MARRIED--AND MILDRED'S LOVE ENABLED HARLEY'S STRANGE REQUEST!

BUT, JOHN, DARLING! IT'S SO--SO FRIGHTENING! SUPPOSE I FAILED AND...

YOU WON'T FAIL! AND THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE --I CAN'T KEEP THE BRAIN ALIVE MUCH LONGER! JUST THINK, MILDRED! WITH THAT BRAIN, I'LL BE THE GREATEST MAN IN THE WORLD!



AND SO, FINALLY, HARLEY CONVINCED HIS RELUCTANT WIFE! AS THEY APPROACHED HIS LONELY, MOUNTAIN-TOP LABORATORY--



THE OPERATION MUST BE TONIGHT, MILDRED! YOU WON'T LOSE YOUR NERVE!

NO, DARLING! I--I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'LL DO IT FOR YOUR SAKE! BUT I'M SO TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED--

THERE, MILDRED! THE RECORD I MADE FOR YOU! JUST LISTEN, DON'T GET FLUSTERED, AND EVERYTHING WILL GO PERFECTLY! YOU **MUST** SUCCEED!

Y-YES, JOHN!



"BE SURE YOUR CLAMPS ARE IN PLACE! NOW YOUR TOWEL CLIPS! THE DRILL SHOULD BE AT YOUR LEFT AND..."

GO ON A BARREN MOUNTAIN TOP, WHILE THE WIND WHISTLED EERILY THROUGH STARK PINES, A VALIANT WOMAN DID THE BIDDING OF THE MAN SHE LOVED! SHE PERFORMED ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT OF ALL OPERATIONS--WHILE A MECHANICAL VOICE GRATED ON AND ON...



ALL R-RIGHT SO FAR!

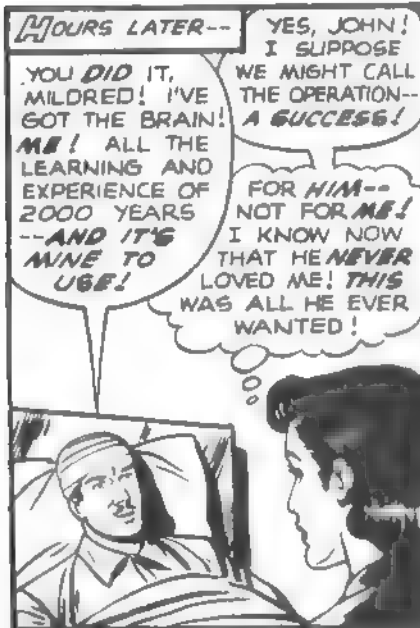
THE INCISION MUST BE LIGHT, BUT FIRM! ARRANGE YOUR SPONGES AROUND THE TONSURE! READY WITH THE TREPAN... NOW...

WORKING LIKE AN AUTOMATON, MILDRED HARLEY WAS SOON READY TO PLACE THE CENTURIES-OLD BRAIN IN THE SKULL CAVITY OF HER HUSBAND...



HALF THROUGH! BUT I'M SO--TIRED! MUSTN'T --MAKE A MISTAKE NOW!

THIS IS THE CRITICAL POINT! BE CAREFUL IN HANDLING THE BRAIN! ABOVE ALL, LET NOTHING PUNCTURE THE DURA MATER...



FOURS LATER--

YOU DID IT, MILDRED! I'VE GOT THE BRAIN! ME! ALL THE LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE OF 2000 YEARS --AND IT'S MINE TO USE!

YES, JOHN! I SUPPOSE WE MIGHT CALL THE OPERATION--A SUCCESS!

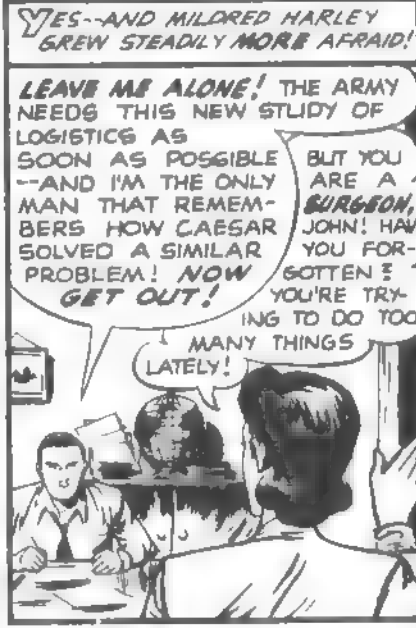
FOR HIM-- NOT FOR ME! I KNOW NOW THAT HE NEVER LOVED ME! THIS WAS ALL HE EVER WANTED!



A MONTH PASSED--JOHN HARLEY WAS ALMOST WELL...

AT LAST! NOW WATCH ME MAKE THE WORLD ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD! WITH MY BRAIN, I CAN DO ANYTHING! --BE ANYTHING!

HE'S-- CHANGED ALREADY! LIKE A STRANGER! I--I'M AFRAID OF HIM SOME-TIMES!



YES--AND MILDRED HARLEY GREW STEADILY MORE AFRAID!

LEAVE ME ALONE! THE ARMY NEEDS THIS NEW STUDY OF LOGISTICS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE --AND I'M THE ONLY MAN THAT REMEMBERS HOW CAESAR SOLVED A SIMILAR PROBLEM! NOW GET OUT!

BUT YOU ARE A SURGEON, JOHN! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? YOU'RE TRYING TO DO TOO MANY THINGS LATELY!

THE YEARS WENT BY AND THE NAME OF JOHN HARLEY WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD! THE MAN WHO KNEW EVERYTHING--WHO COULD DO ANYTHING BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.



I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE JOHN HARLEY, THE MAN WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING WORTH KNOWING!

AND THEN ONE DAY, AFTER ALMOST TWENTY YEARS...

THE **PRESIDENCY** IS YOURS FOR THE TAKING, MR. HARLEY! WILL YOU BE OUR PARTY'S CANDIDATE?

I ACCEPT, GENTLEMEN! I ALWAYS **KNEW** I WOULD BE PRESIDENT SOME DAY! AFTER ALL--WHO IS BETTER FITTED FOR THE **JOB**?



THAT NIGHT.

I'M TO BE PRESIDENT **AT LAST!** THE ELECTION IS ONLY A FORMALITY, OF COURSE! I HAVE GREAT PLANS FOR THE COUNTRY--FOR THE WORLD!

JOHN--**NO!** I CAN'T LET YOU TAKE A POSITION THAT CAN SWAY NATIONS! YOU CAN'T **EVER** BE PRESIDENT!



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MILDRED? OF **COURSE** I'LL BE PRESIDENT! WITH MY BRAIN...

YES, YOUR BRAIN--YOUR **MAD BRAIN!** YOU'RE A BRILLIANT MADMAN--MAD WITH INSOLENCE, PRIDE, SUPERIORITY! I KNOW, JOHN, BECAUSE **I...**



IT WAS A FATEFUL SENTENCE--A SENTENCE MILDRED HARLEY NEVER FINISHED!

NO! DON'T--**AHHHHHH!**

HOW **DARE** YOU? YOU'RE JEALOUS OF THE BRAIN, THAT IS ALL! I'LL KILL YOU--**KILL YOU!**



WHAT HAVE I DONE--WHY COULDN'T I STOP MYSELF? IT **COULDN'T** BE WHAT SHE SAID--I'M THE SANEST MAN IN THE WORLD! BUT--BUT I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF HER BODY--**AND I THINK I KNOW HOW!**



AND SO THE WORLD'S GREATEST THINKER RETURNED TO HIS LONG-DESERTED LABORATORY--

JUST THE PLACE TO DO WHAT I'VE GOT TO! STRANGE TO THINK THAT IT WAS JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO, ON THIS SPOT, THAT I FIRST GOT **THE BRAIN!**



STRANGE, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER THINGS AS WELL AS I USED TO! THAT FORMULA FOR ACID SHOULD BE HERE SOMEWHERE! IT DOESN'T LEAVE A TRACE OF FLESH OR BONE...

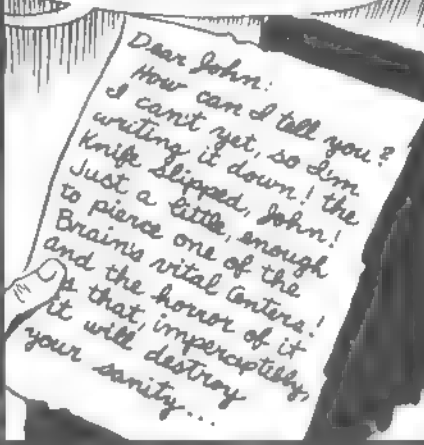


WHAT'S THIS? A NOTE IN MILDRED'S HANDWRITING--SOMETHING ABOUT THE OPERATION! I WONDER...



SLOWLY, AS JOHN HARLEY READ THE FADED SCRIPT--HIS BLOOD CHILLED WITHIN HIM!

THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT WHEN SHE SAID I MUST NEVER BE PRESIDENT! SHE KNEW-- SHE KNEW--



Dear John:  
How can I tell you?  
I can't yet, so I'm  
writing it down! the  
knife slipped, John!  
Just a little, enough  
to pierce one of the  
Brain's vital centers!  
and the horror of it  
is that, imperceptibly,  
it will destroy  
your sanity...

I'VE GOT ENOUGH MENTALITY LEFT TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE RIGHT, MILDRED--RIGHT! YES, I'M GOING MAD--SO MAD THAT I CAN NO LONGER RESTRAIN MY LUST FOR POWER! IF I LIVE, THE WORLD WILL SUFFER FROM MY AMBITION--SO THERE IS ONLY ONE THING TO DO!



...SO THAT IS MY STORY, AND THE STORY OF THE BRAIN! I STOLE IT--AND I'M PAYING FOR MY CRIME!



I must do this before I change my mind, while I still have my sanity and decency enough left! the Brain, gone wrong, would create such a monster as never lived before! I alone could wreck all civilization! It must be destroyed immediately!



BANG!

The End...



# The Evil Secret Of **BLACK HOLLOW**



Only stark ruins were supposed to mark the spot where **THE EVIL ONE** held sway.. ruins that thrust against the moonlight like a jagged warning! But the moment came when a wizened figure hobbled toward death in the shadows.. and it meant a night of **TERROR IN BLACK HOLLOW!**

ONE MOONLIT NIGHT-- ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AN ISOLATED VILLAGE --

WE'VE PICKED A RESTFUL SPOT FOR OUR VACATION, ELSA-- **TOO** RESTFUL! HOW ABOUT SNOOPING AROUND THAT PLACE EVERYONE AVOIDS-- **BLACK HOLLOW?**

PLEASE, DON-- I'VE MADE INQUIRIES-- **AND IT SOUNDS LIKE A SPOT WE'D BETTER LEAVE ALONE!**

SEVENTY YEARS AGO, A STRANGE HOUSE STOOD UP THERE-- **BLACK HOLLOW HALL!** THE PEOPLE HERE-- ABOUTS DREADED THE PLACE.. BUT ONE NIGHT, A LAD NAMED BELFORD WANDERED BLINDLY AROUND THE CURSED HOLLOW! AT MIDNIGHT, THE HOUSE COLLAPSED WITH A ROAR THAT WAS HEARD FOR MILES --

-- **AND BELFORD NEVER RETURNED!**

IT'S AN INTERESTING STORY, ELSA-- BUT I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW EASY IT IS TO DISPROVE! SUPPOSE WE **SEE** IF THERE ARE ANY RUINS UP AT **BLACK HOLLOW!**



MINUTES LATER-- IN A HUSH THAT SEEMS TO DEEPEN AT THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS--

DON, I'VE TAKEN MANY A LONELY WALK-- BUT **THIS IS DIFFERENT**-- IT'S CHARGED WITH SOME KIND OF DREADFUL, UNNAMED FORCE!

NONSENSE-- YOU CAN'T FEEL SOMETHING IN-VISIBLE! WE'LL LOOK BEHIND THAT UNDER-BRUSH JUST TO SHOW YOU THAT THERE'S NOTHING UP HERE-- AND THEN TURN BACK!



WHEN-- SPRAWLED LIKE A HUGE SKELETON IN THE GREEN HALF-LIGHT--

WELL-- WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW?

OKAY, THERE **WAS** A HOUSE IN THE HOLLOW-- BUT THAT DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL!



SUDDENLY-- SHRILL AS THE PIPING OF A NIGHT BIRD IN THE SHADOWS--

VOICES-- VOICES! HUMANS HAVE COME TO BLACK HOLLOW HALL!

GOOD HEAVENS-- THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE THE RUINS!



SLOWLY-- GROPING FROM THE DEPTHS--

I HAVE WAITED-- THOUSANDS OF NIGHTS-- HERE IN BLACK HOLLOW! WAITED FOR SOMEONE ALIVE-- TO GUIDE ME AWAY-- FROM THIS LAIR OF THE EVIL ONE!



DON-- I CAN'T FACE THAT THING! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

HOLD IT, ELSA-- IT'S JUST A HARMLESS OLD MAN-- EXTREMELY ANCIENT-- AND BLIND!

NO-- NO-- DON'T GO AWAY! IF I DIE HERE-- THE EVIL ONE TRIUMPHS!

GREAT GUNS! WATCH OUT-- YOU'RE AT THE EDGE!

AS DON RUSHES FORWARD--



CRASH!



IN THE NEXT SECOND-- LIKE SOMETHING SEEN IN THE BLACK GULF OF A NIGHTMARE--



A CLOUD BRUSHES THE MOON-- AND AS IT PASSES IN A FLOOD OF GHOSTLY LIGHT--



THEN-- HOBBLING STIFFLY TOWARD THE GLOWING WALLS--





AN INSTANT LATER -- LOOMING STARKLY IN THE ECHOING DARKNESS--

HERE YOU HAVE DIED-- AND HERE YOUR BODY WILL STAY! TO THE VAULT-- WHERE THE OTHER DEAD HAVE GATHERED!

GREAT GUNS! IT'S THE FIEND THAT PRESIDES OVER BLACK HOLLOW HALL -- THE EVIL ONE!

HUMANS! I THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE TO WAIT-- BUT I SHALL HAVE NEW VICTIMS THIS VERY NIGHT!

DON, THIS IS WHAT BELFORD TRIED TO FORESTALL -- AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!



OH!!  
YE GODS-- SHE'S FAINTED!

HA HA HA! A PROMISING START-- FOR THE HOURS OF CLUTCHING PANIC THAT LIE AHEAD!

FOR CENTURIES, UNSUSPECTING HUMANS HAVE BEEN LURED HERE -- TO DIE OF TERROR! THEIR UNBURIED BODIES ARE ARRAYED IN A HIDDEN VAULT --

CREATING THE ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH THAT KEEPS ME ALIVE! BELFORD WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT-- CAUSING BLACK HOLLOW HALL TO CRUMBLE TO THE GROUND-- BUT READY TO RISE LIKE A TOMB OF EVIL THE MOMENT HE DIED AMONG THE RUINS!



THAT'S WHY BELFORD WANTED US TO LEAVE BEFORE HE DIED! BUT YOU HAVEN'T GOT ME TERRIFIED, CREEP-- WE'RE GETTING OUT NOW!

FOOL, YOU WILL FIND ALL RETREAT BARRED BY A FORCE NO HUMAN CAN BREACH-- THE IN-VISIBLE BARRIER OF TERROR! SHE HAS FELT IT ALREADY.. AND THERE IS ENOUGH AHEAD

THROUGH THE FEAR-RIDDEN HALLS-- SHROUDED BY THE MEMORY OF DOOM --

BEFORE I EVEN TRY TO DEAL WITH THAT FIEND -- I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE OF SAFETY FOR ELSA! COULD BE I'M MORE PANICKY THAN I THINK -- BUT FOR SOME REASON -- HER BODY SEEMS TO BE GETTING LIGHTER!

AS DON TURNS INTO A MOONLIT CHAMBER--

GOOD LORD -- ELSA!



IN A FRENZY BEYOND EITHER FEAR OR RAGE--

I'VE GOT TO FIND THE EVIL ONE! IF I HAVE TO RIP THIS PLACE APART STONE BY STONE-- I'M GOING TO SAVE ELSA FROM THE BLIGHT THAT FIEND HAS INFLECTED!



DEEP INSIDE THE BROODING HEART OF BLACK HOLLOW HALL--

THERE'S SOMETHING BEYOND THAT DOOR--I CAN GENSE IT! AND IF IT'S THE LAIR OF THE EVIL ONE-- I'M READY FOR A SHOWDOWN!



THEN--

YE GODS-- IT'S THE VAULT OF THE DEAD!



FROM THE DARK NICHES-- EACH WITH ITS GAUNT AND SHRIVELED FORM--

WE HAVE NO GRAVE, WE HAVE NO BIER BUT LET TWO MORTALS ENTER HERE, THEY'LL END THE CURSE WITH HUMAN BREATH AND DOOM THIS ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH!



ONE THING'S SURE--THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT HUMANS UNLESS ELSA IS ALIVE! THAT HORRIBLE CHANGE SHE UNDERWENT WAS JUST A BLACK SPELL CAST BY THE EVIL ONE-- TO TRICK ME INTO LEAVING HER ALONE AND UNPROTECTED!



A MOMENT LATER--

DARLING-- THANK HEAVEN I'VE COME TO! IT WAS LIKE A TRANCE IN WHICH I IMAGINED MYSELF TO BE AN OLD WOMAN READY FOR DEATH --AND I WILL BE-- IF I HAVE ANOTHER

SHOCK LIKE THAT!



THAT'S JUST WHAT THE EVIL ONE HAD IN MIND, ELSA! HE'S STALKING ALONG THE CORRIDOR-- BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING THAT CAN SPELL HIS DOWNFALL!

IN A FRANTIC RUSH-- WE'VE GOT TO ENTER THE VAULT OF THE DEAD, HONEY! YOU'RE GOING TO KNOW A NEW KIND OF HORROR-- BUT REMEMBER, WE'RE WITHIN MINUTES OF SAFETY-- AT MIDNIGHT!

HA-- WAIT! I AM READY TO UNVEIL A SIGHT THAT WILL SHRIVEL YOUR VERY SOULS IN A MATTER OF SECONDS!







AS THE BUILDING SHUDDERS-- AS IF  
OVERBURDENED BY DARKNESS--



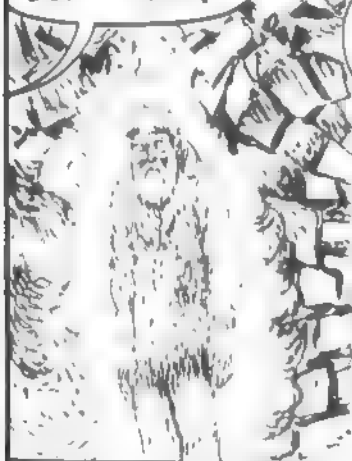
WE'RE THE FIRST HUMANS EVER  
TO VENTURE INTO THE VAULT  
OF THE DEAD, ELGA-- AND  
IT ENDED THE ATMOSPHERE  
OF DEATH THAT KEPT THE  
EVIL ONE ALIVE!

BUT WHAT ABOUT  
US? THE STAIR-  
WAY'S COLLAPSED--  
IT'S OUR ONLY  
WAY OUT!



THEN-- IN A GLOW HAZED BY  
THE SWIRLING DUST OF  
DISSOLUTION--

GOOD HEAVENS,  
DON-- LOOK!



IT'S BELFORD'S  
GHOST! I CAN'T  
BEAR THE SIGHT OF  
ANOTHER PHANTOM,  
DON-- I'D RATHER  
DIE UNDER TONS  
OF MASONRY THAN  
UNDERGO THIS  
ENDLESS TERROR!

BUT IF BELFORD  
TRIED TO HELP US  
WHILE HE WAS  
ALIVE-- WHY BE  
AFRAID OF HIS  
GHOST? GET A  
GRIP ON YOUR-  
SELF-- IT HAS  
A GOOD REASON  
FOR BEING HERE!



MAYBE YOU'RE  
RIGHT, DON! ALL  
THE OTHER NICHES  
ARE JUST BIG  
ENOUGH TO HOLD  
A BODY-- BUT  
THIS ONE'S  
DEEP!

IT'S A TUN-  
NEL! BEL-  
FORD'S GHOST  
APPEARED TO  
SHOW US HOW  
HE GROPED  
HIS WAY TO  
SAFETY--  
SEVENTY  
YEARS  
AGO!



THEN-- WITH THE FINAL ROAR OF UPHEAVAL  
MOUNTING LIKE A TREMENDOUS WAVE...



DON'T LOOK  
BACK! WE'VE  
GOT TO MAKE  
IT-- BEFORE  
THE SHAFT  
GIVES WAY!

SECONDS LATER--

DARLING--  
THERE'S THE  
END OF  
BLACK  
HOLLOW  
HALL!

IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE, ELGA--  
BUT THIS TIME IT MEANS THE  
END OF THE EVIL ONE! THERE'S  
NO LONGER A FIENDISH SPIRIT  
THAT CAN LURK AMONG THE  
RUINS-- WAITING FOR THE  
CURSED WALLS  
TO RISE!



THE  
END

# The WINGED CREATURE



The torch of science has illuminated many of nature's dark secrets, but there are times when the light flickers, dims, and plunges us into total darkness! Then, from the shadowy realms of forbidden worlds, dread horrors may emerge-- horrors as diabolically evil as...  
**THE WINGED TERROR!**



*IN THE HEART OF THE AMAZON JUNGLES--*

BUT YOU CAN'T LEAVE US NOW, BALLU-- WE'D NEVER MAKE THAT MOUNTAIN ALONE!

FORBIDDEN TO ENTER CHAPPI JUNGLE! WE GO BACK NOW! WE GO BACK!



YOU'LL TAKE US, BALLU, EVEN IF I HAVE TO--

THAT WON'T HELP, SIR! LET'S HEAR WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

*IN A VOICE TINGED WITH DREAD--*

CHAPPI JUNGLE IS HOME OF EVIL GODS! THOSE WHO ENTER NEVER RETURN-- SOME DIE, BUT MANY BECOME **CHI WALLIES!** THEY FLY THROUGH AIR-- KILL **EVERY-THING!** LISTEN TO BALLU! **GO BACK!**









After THE FEVERISH APPLICATION OF FIRST AID--

Y-YOU SAY KATHY IS GONE? BUT WHERE? WE MUST GO AFTER HER!

SURE, BUT FIRST THERE'S SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO! SOMETHING THAT MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE TO THIS INCREDIBLE BUSINESS!

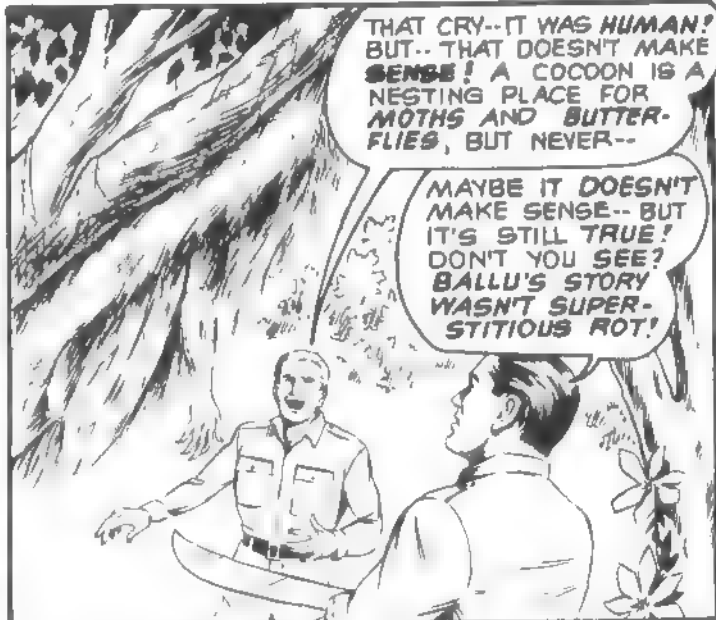
WAIT! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'S INSIDE!

EXACTLY-- BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!



LIKE THIS!

ARGHH!



THAT CRY--IT WAS HUMAN! BUT-- THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! A COCOON IS A NESTING PLACE FOR MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES, BUT NEVER--

MAYBE IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-- BUT IT'S STILL TRUE! DON'T YOU SEE? BALLU'S STORY WASN'T SUPERSTITIOUS ROT!

HE SAID THOSE WHO ENTERED THIS JUNGLE WERE CHANGED INTO CHIWALLIES--THEIR WORD FOR FLYING CREATURES! THIS SOUNDS FAR-FETCHED, BUT THESE CREATURES MUST PLACE THEIR VICTIMS IN THESE COCOONS, AND AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, THE HUMANS HATCH OUT AS ONE OF THEIR OWN KIND!

I'M NOT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, BUT I'M STARTING OUT AFTER HER AT ONCE! AND I CAN TRAVEL FASTER ALONE!

GREAT SCOTT! KATHY'S IN THEIR CLUTCHES NOW! DO YOU THINK THEY--?

I-- I UNDERSTAND! GO-- AND MAY THE FATES BE WITH YOU!

Through EVER-THICKENING JUNGLE, MIKE PUSHED ON ALONE! THEN-- AS EVENING FELL--

THERE IT IS-- THE VOLCANO WE WERE SEARCHING FOR! BUT WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS WHEELING AROUND THE SUMMIT? WELL, THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO-- INVESTIGATE!



*Approaching* THE MOUNTAIN'S  
BASE--

IT'S THE  
CHI-WALLIES  
ALL RIGHT, AND  
THIS MOUNTAIN  
MUST BE THE  
CENTER OF THEIR  
ACTIVITIES! NOW,  
IF I ONLY KNEW  
WHAT THEY'VE  
DONE TO  
KATHY, I  
COULD--



HOLY SMOKE-- A CAVE  
LEADING INTO THE  
MOUNTAIN! THIS  
COULD BE A  
SLICKER PLAY--  
BUT I'VE GOT  
TO LOOK  
AROUND  
INSIDE!



*Cautiously* ADVANCING INTO THE  
GRIM PASSAGE -

THIS IS IT, ALL RIGHT-- SOME KIND  
OF MONSTROUS **HATCHERY**-- AND  
EACH OF THOSE COCOONS MUST  
CONTAIN A **HUMAN VICTIM**!  
IF THOSE FIENDS HAVE DONE  
ANYTHING TO  
KATHY, I'LL--



*Suddenly--*

OHH-HHH!

THAT  
SHRIEK--  
IT'S  
KATHY!



*Plunging* ONWARD TOWARD THE CRY, OBLIVIOUS TO  
DANGER----

OH, MIKE--  
THANK  
HEAVENS!

I'LL CUT YOU LOOSE PRONTO, HONEY--  
THEN WE'VE GOT TO RUN LIKE BLAZES  
-- BECAUSE THOSE DEMONS MAY  
REAPPEAR ANY SECOND!



THERE--  
THAT  
DOES  
IT!

TOO LATE! I HEAR  
THEM-- THEY'RE  
COMING BACK!

HEAD FOR THE BRUSH!  
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!





But AS THE TERRIFIED PAIR FLED FORWARD, A GHASTLY HORDE STREAMED FORTH FROM THE VOLCANO'S CRATER-- THE AIR VIBRATING TO THE BEAT OF ENORMOUS WINGS AND RAUCOUS CRIES--



One BY ONE, THE CHIVALRIES HURTLE TO THEIR DOOM-- THEIR DEATH CRIES MINGLED WITH THE CRACKLING FLAMES--



The End



The old man sat in darkness with his secrets--unafraid! And yet he **WOULD** have feared had he known what was coming! The butler prowled like a gaunt wraith through the corridors-- and the shadow of midnight moved with him toward an appointment with horror! And between the two, her heart pounding in the stillness where evil waited, was **NANCY LEWIS**-- a prisoner of the dread that loomed around her!

**THIS IS THE WAY IT LOOKED... SOMETHING MORE THAN OLD-- SOMETHING OTHER THAN GRIM-- A PLACE THAT, UNTIL THE EVIL WITHIN IT WAS NAMED, WOULD BE TERROR HOUSE!**

YOU'VE BEEN MY SECRETARY FOR TWO DAYS, NANCY-- HOW DO YOU LIKE IT? YOU'RE HAPPY HERE-- QUITE CONTENTED?

GUESS IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO SAY, MR. ASHFORD! IT'S ALL SO NEW, AND-- I SUPPOSE AT FIRST **ANY** HOUSE SEEMS STRANGE!



YOU MUST GIVE YOURSELF *TIME!* LET THIS HOUSE BECOME PART OF YOU, MY DEAR, AND ALL WILL BE WELL -- INDEED IT WILL!

I'LL TRY, MR ASHFORD!

HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS HOUSE -- HOW *COULD* HE -- AND BE THE KIND OLD MAN HE IS? BUT IT'S *HERE*, ALL AROUND ME -- AND HEAVEN FORBID I EVER LEARN WHAT IT IS -- *BECAUSE I'LL GO MAD WITH TERROR!*

HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT ALL TO MR ASHFORD? SOMETIMES IT'S FLITTING SHADOWS -- SOMETIMES IT'S THAT HORRID BUTLER LURKING OUTSIDE --



-- DOORS!



FOR A MOMENT -- THE TWO FACES IN THE GLOOM -- HOW CAN WORDS PLEAD, HOW CONVEY FEAR -- TO A THING LIKE *THIS*?

LOFTON -- WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THIS IS MY PLACE, MISS!



THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER! EVERY TIME I LOOK AROUND, *YOU'RE THERE!* I'M BEGINNING TO HEAR PADDING FOOTSTEPS AND STRANGE NOISES -- IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES!

I'M SORRY, MISS! DON'T BE AFRAID!



LATE THAT NIGHT --

WHAT DID LOFTON MEAN BY THAT -- *DON'T BE AFRAID?* DOES HE *SENSE* HOW MUCH I WANT TO LEAVE -- THAT I'D GO RUSHING DOWN THE DRIVEWAY THIS VERY MINUTE -- IF IT DIDN'T MEAN LEAVING MR. ASHFORD ALONE WITH *HIM*?





SUDDENLY-- SLOW AND MEASURED AS A DYING PULSE--

AS IF I HAD TO GUESS WHO THAT IS! LOFTON-- WHAT ARE YOU PACING AROUND FOR?

FOOTSTEPS -- TURNING INTO THE KITCHEN CORRIDOR! I'VE BORNE THIS LONG ENOUGH! WHATEVER HAPPENS-- I'M GOING TO LEARN WHAT IT IS!

THUMP...  
THUMP...  
THUMP...

LIKE THE CREEP OF BLUE FLAME IN A LOWERED LAMP WICK--

IN A FLASH THAT SEARS THE DARKNESS WITH HORROR--

THAT LIGHT CAN'T BE COMING FROM THE KITCHEN-- THE DOOR'S CLOSED! LOFTON-- SAY SOMETHING!

OHHH!

THEN, AS THE MONSTROUS FIGURE FADES--

AH, WHAT PRETTY FUR-- WHAT NICE CLAWS! I THINK MISS NANCY WOULD LIKE YOU-- I'M SURE SHE WOULD!

LOFTON!

YES, MISS! IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG?

LOFTON-- WHAT WAS THAT HIDEOUS THING? WHAT CAME IN HERE A SECOND AGO?

NOTHING, MISS-- NOTHING AT ALL!

IT'S GONE-- BUT I KNOW I SAW IT! AND WHAT'S MORE-- I KNOW THAT VOICE!

YOU'RE LYING, YOU INHUMAN  
BRUTE--LYING! YOU CAN SIT  
THERE GRAVE AS A DEACON  
AND ASK ME WHAT'S WRONG--  
BUT LET ME ASK YOU SOME-  
THING! **CLAWS-- FUR!**  
IF YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING--  
**WHAT WERE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?**



MY  
KITTEN,  
MISS!



JUST... A  
**KITTEN?**  
NOTHING  
ELSE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK! ALL I KNOW IS  
I'M TERRIFIED-- TERRIFIED BY WHAT I SAW--  
AND BY WHAT I'M  
**GOING  
TO SEE!**



QUITE SO, MISS!  
BUT-- **DON'T BE  
AFRAID!**



WHAT WAS THAT HORRIBLE CREATURE-- WHERE  
DID IT COME FROM? THERE'S A CURSE  
HANGING OVER THIS HOUSE-- AND NO MATTER  
HOW HE PRETENDS AND BIDES HIS TIME--  
**I SAW ITS SECRET  
IN LOFTON'S EYES!**



A SOUND ROSE-- STRANGE-- AT FIRST LOST IN THE  
BLACK NOWHERE... AND THEN--

**HA-HA!**  
OH, YES!  
YES, INDEED!

THAT'S MR. ASHFORD'S  
ROOM! BUT GOOD HEAVENS  
--THAT CAN'T BE HIS  
VOICE!



SOMETHING ACRID SWEEPED THROUGH THE PARTLY OPENED DOOR  
-- FORBIDDING-- LIKE THE TANG OF A LAIR--

**HA-HA--** GIVE YOURSELF TIME, NANCY! JUST A FEW  
MORE NIGHTS-- AND SEE HOW MUCH  
THIS HOUSE BECOMES  
PART OF YOU!



IT CAN'T BE  
TRUE! THIS IS  
SOME KIND OF  
UNHOLY  
NIGHTMARE!



**WHAT! YOU  
LISTENED?**

NOT QUITE ENOUGH, ASHFORD!  
IT'S BEEN YOU ALL ALONG  
-- YOU POISONED EVERY  
CORNER OF THIS PLACE--  
**BUT WHY?**



MY DEAR-- I'LL TELL YOU WHY!  
TO WATCH YOU WRITHE IN TERROR  
--TERROR THAT  
STABS TO  
THE VERY  
DEPTHS  
OF YOUR  
SOUL!

NO-- NOT MY  
SOUL! YOUR TERROR  
CAN REACH JUST SO  
FAR-- AND, ASHFORD--  
IT HAS REACHED ITS  
LIMIT WITH ME!

YOU, LIKE SOME MONSTROUS  
PUPPET THAT HAS MADE ITSELF  
LOOK HUMAN-- DO YOU THINK  
I'LL CRINGE  
NOW?  
NOT FOR  
ANYTHING!

NOT EVEN IF  
YOU KNEW...  
I INTEND  
TO KILL  
YOU?

SOMETHING LOOMS BEYOND THE YAWNING  
DOORWAY-- AND IN ITS LARGE,  
IMPATIENT HAND--

ASHFORD... SHE'S NOT  
AFRAID OF YOU!

GET OUT OF HERE,  
YOU LUMBERING  
FOOL! GET OUT!

SHE'S NOT AFRAID! THINK  
WHAT THAT MEANS TO ME,  
ASHFORD-- AND  
TO YOU!

ALL THESE YEARS, ALL THESE COUNTLESS  
NIGHTS I'VE SPENT-- IN A SLAVERY OF FEAR!  
ALL THE WHILE AFRAID TO HELP MYSELF  
AND THE OTHERS-- ALL THE WHILE KNOWING  
IT WAS TERROR THAT KEPT YOU ALIVE--  
A TERROR I DIDN'T  
DARE CHALLENGE!

TERROR, ASHFORD-- SOMETHING  
THAT IS FOOD AND DRINK AND  
OXYGEN TO YOUR INFERNAL SPIRIT!  
BUT TONIGHT IT CAME TO AN  
END-- AND IT MEANS THE  
END OF YOU!

WE'LL SEE-- WE'LL SEE!  
I'LL BRING FORTH THINGS  
HIDEOUS ENOUGH TO TURN  
HER HAIR WHITE-- AND  
THEN, YOU SHAMBLING OX--  
THEN IT WILL BE  
YOUR TURN!

NEVER--  
NEVER!

TERROR IS THE PULSE AND  
BEING OF THIS HOUSE-- THE  
ONE REALITY THAT EXISTS  
BEHIND THESE DOORS!  
STARK-- DEATHLY-- LET  
IT COME FORTH!

CRASH!



FOR A SECOND--THE DARKNESS  
GATHERS IN A FROTH OF EVIL--

EYES CLOSED, HANDS CLENCHED,  
NANCY FEELS A SHUDDER COIL WITHIN  
HER--KNOWING WHAT  
MUST BE FACED--

SOMETHING'S  
TAKING SHAPE--  
I CAN FEEL IT!

DID YOU HEAR THAT,  
LOFTON? HA-HA-HA!  
HOW MUCH HOPE IS  
THERE--HOW MUCH  
CAN SHE WITH-  
STAND?



SHE CAN'T CONFRONT IT--SHE  
DOESN'T DARE LOOK! ALL  
THIS DEFIANCE OF TERROR--  
AND NOW IT'S HERE--  
SOMETHING THAT CAN  
BE NAMED IN NOTHING  
BUT A SCREAM!



NO, YOU MONSTER--IT **CAN** BE FACED!  
AND IN THIS MOMENT, I'M SURE OF  
SOMETHING ELSE--  
IT CAN BE  
NAMED!

I MIGHT SHRINK LIKE A STRICKEN IDIOT FROM THE **UNKNOWN**  
-- BUT NOT FROM THIS! ALL THE DREAD AND EVIL  
IN THIS HOUSE ARE ONE--  
AND THE NAME IS  
ASHFORD!

AND THE NAME OF WHAT  
DIES--WILL BE  
ASHFORD!



ALL THE DREAD-- ALL THE  
EVIL-- CHOKED OUT--  
STIFLED!

FIENDS-- FIENDS!  
IT'S YOU HE'S  
KILLING--  
YOU!

THE FIEND IS MOVING TOWARD ASHFORD--  
TOWARD ITS DOOM! IT'S SOMETHING  
THAT HAD TO HAPPEN-- AND I'M NOT  
AFRAID TO WATCH THEM DIE--  
TOGETHER!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT-- MERGING AT THE BLACK THRESHOLD OF DOOM--



AN ETERNAL MOMENT TICKS PAST IN SILENCE--THEN--



THIS IS MY PLACE, MISS-- MY PLACE AS MUCH AS IT WAS HIS! I GAVE UP THE WORLD WHEN I CAME TO TERROR HOUSE! I BECAME A THING THAT BREATHED BUT WAS DEAD-- AND NOW I AM IN MY TOMB! YES, MISS-- I AM GOING TO **STAY!**



AS A VAST GROAN MOVES THROUGH THE SHUDDERING CORRIDORS--

LOFTON-- NO! FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, COME WITH ME-- AND LIVE!

**THIS** IS WHAT I HAVE LIVED FOR, MISS-- **THIS MOMENT!** HURRY-- HURRY-- AND NEVER-- NEVER BE AFRAID!



FOR A SECOND, THE TALL FIGURE IS VISIBLE IN THE WINDOW-- ERECT IN THE SHIFTING MASS THAT WAS TERROR HOUSE--



-- AND THEN THE TOMB CLOSES-- ON A THING NAMED ASHFORD-- AND ON A MAN!



The End

# "TRUE" UNCANNY EXPERIENCES

The  
CASE  
of

## The SUBWAY SPECTRES

(EDITOR'S NOTE) ~ EVER SINCE WE STARTED THE "TRUE" UNCANNY EXPERIENCES DEPARTMENT IN THIS MAGAZINE, WE'VE BEEN DELUGED WITH LETTERS TELLING US OF EXPERIENCES WITH DENIZENS OF THE VAST UNKNOWN -- BUT NONE HAS BEEN AS FASCINATINGLY WEIRD AS THE STORY OF PHIL JENKINS OF NEW YORK CITY! HERE IT IS, IN HIS OWN WORDS ... THE CASE OF THE SUBWAY SPECTRES!

IT HAPPENED ONE FROSTY NIGHT LAST WINTER! I'M FROM THE BRONX MYSELF, AND I'D NEVER BEEN TO THE LONELY REACHES OF BROOKLYN BEFORE -- BUT THAT WAS WHERE THIS GAL I'D MET AT A PARTY LIVED! AFTER I GOT HER HOME, SHE GAVE ME DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO GET BACK TO THE SUBWAY! THEY MUST HAVE BEEN AWFULLY CRUMMY DIRECTIONS, BECAUSE I HAD THE DEVIL'S OWN TIME FINDING MY WAY AMONG THE DARK, GLOOMY STREETS!

IT MUST'VE BEEN BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR A.M. WHEN I FINALLY FOUND THE SUBWAY ENTRANCE! THERE A DRUNK STOPPED ME --

LISHEN PAL---GIMME TWO BITS AN' I'LL GIVE YA A HOT TIP! DON'T GO INTO THAT SHUBWAY---HIC!---'CUZ THE DEATH TRAIN ALLUZ COMES TROUGH AROUN' THIS TIME! I KNOW---'CUZ THAT'S WHEN I TOOK TA DRINKIN'!

BUD, THAT STORY'S WORTH A QUARTER! DEATH TRAIN---HA!

THE STATION WAS STRANGELY GLOOMY, AND I FOUND MYSELF GROWING MORE UNCOMFORTABLE BY THE MINUTE--

THE QUICKER I GET HOME, THE BETTER I'LL FEEL! THINK I'LL ASK THAT OTHER PASSENGER IF THE EXPRESS RUNS THIS TIME OF NIGHT!

BUT AS I APPROACHED THE "PASSENGER"...

PARDON ME, DOES --- HOLY COW!



THAT... THAT GHASTLY FACE, AND STARING EYES -- SHE... LOOKS LIKE A WALKING CORPSE! MAYBE THAT DRUNK HAD SOMETHING --- OH, NONSENSE, I'M LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH ME!

BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THAT WOMAN'S FACE, EVEN WHEN A TRAIN CAME ROARING INTO THE STATION, PULLING TO A SUDDEN STOP...

WELL, AT LEAST I WON'T BE IN THE SAME CAR WITH HER --- WHAT I NEED IS SOME LIVELY COMPANY!









OVERCOME WITH A MAD DESIRE TO ESCAPE FROM THAT DEVILISH TRAIN, I YANKED FRANTICALLY ON THE EMERGENCY BRAKE CORD—BUT TO NO AVAIL!

STOP THE TRAIN!  
LET ME OFF! LET  
ME OFF, I SAY!

WE STOP ONLY TO **PICK UP** PASSENGERS—WE **DISCHARGE** PASSENGERS ONLY AT OUR **DESTINATION!**



**D-DESTINATION?**  
WHAT... WHAT IS  
OUR DESTINATION?

HA HAA! YOU DON'T  
KNOW OUR DESTINATION?  
HA HAA HAAA!

AS THE WILD, HOLLOW, MOCKING LAUGHTER OF THE DEAD ECHOED AROUND ME, I LOST ALL CONTROL OF MYSELF—AND RAN DOWN THE TRAIN IN TERROR!



HA HAA! OUR  
DESTINATION!  
HA HAA  
HAAA!

THE MOTORMAN—HE'S  
MY ONLY HOPE! I... I'VE  
GOT TO MAKE HIM STOP  
THE TRAIN AND LET ME  
OFF—I'VE GOT TO!



LIKE ONE POSSESSED, I RACED MADLY THROUGH CAR AFTER CAR CARRYING THAT HORRIBLE CARGO OF LIVING DEAD, UNTIL FINALLY—

HERE'S THE MOTORMAN'S COMPARTMENT!  
DEAR LORD... LET HIM BE SOMEONE  
**HUMAN, ALIVE**—SOMEONE  
WHO CAN HELP ME!



OH—NO!



THIS—THIS IS A DEATH TRAIN—AND **DEATH**  
**HIMSELF** IS AT THE CONTROLS! BUT I—I'M  
NOT DEAD—I DON'T **BELONG** HERE! I GOT  
ON BY **MISTAKE**—LET ME OFF—  
**LET ME OFF!**

ONLY THE DEAD HEARD MY WILD SHRIEKS— BUT THEN, AS MY EYE WAS CAUGHT BY THE EMERGENCY DOOR RELEASE, HOPE WAS REBORN WITHIN ME!



THIS'LL GET ME OUT OF HERE! I...I'LL JUMP FROM THE TRAIN— EVEN IF IT KILLS ME! BUT WAIT! THE... THE TRAIN'S SLOWING DOWN!

WE'RE PULLING INTO A STATION! THERE ARE THE DEAD, WAITING TO GET ON— BUT I'M GETTING OFF!



I CROUCHED AT THE DOOR LIKE A TRACK STAR TOEING THE MARK— AND THE MOMENT THE DOORS OPENED I BOLTED OUT OF THERE LIKE A SHOT!



GETTING OUT!

WHEW --- MADE IT!



THERE IT GOES, THAT **DEATH TRAIN**! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT ITS DESTINATION IS, BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH IT ISN'T **HEAVEN**!



YEAH, I KNOW --- MOST OF YOU'LL THINK I'M OFF MY ROCKER! YOU DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A SPECIAL TRAIN THAT PICKS UP THE NEWLY DEAD IN THE SMALL HOURS OF MORNING AND TAKES THEM TO SOME UNKNOWN DESTINATION! ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY IS, BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT **DON'T** EVER BOARD THAT TRAIN BY MISTAKE! AND AS FOR THAT GAL I TOOK HOME TO BROOKLYN THAT NIGHT --- WELL, YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE I NEVER DATED **HER** AGAIN!



WHAT WAS PHIL JENKINS' "TRUE" UNCANNY EXPERIENCE, READER --- AND IF YOU'VE HAD ANY, WRITE US ABOUT IT, WON'T YOU?

The END!

# the WITCH'S CURSE



**TIME HAS DIMMED THE BITTER MEMORY OF THE SADISTIC SALEM WITCH BURNINGS! BUT OUT OF THIS CHARRED CHAPTER IN NEW ENGLAND'S TURBULENT PAST, STALKS A GRISLY MENACE THAT MOVES RELENTLESSLY TO FULFILL THE FLAMING FURY OF-- THE WITCH'S CURSE!**

**ON A HONEYMOON TRIP THROUGH NEW ENGLAND--**

WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE WITCH BURNINGS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY, I GET THE SHUDDERS!

THAT HAPPENED HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, ELLEN! IT'S ALL IN THE PAST!

CHEER UP, HONEY! WE'RE PRACTICALLY AT THE HOUSE!

CURT-- LOOK!

**GREAT GUNS! THAT LOOKS LIKE THE SHADOW OF A-- WITCH!**

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE-- STOP THE CAR!







IT... IT'S JUST A CAT! THE POSITION OF THE LEAF AND THE ANGLE OF THE SUN RESULTED IN A TRICK SHADOW!

OH! THANK GOODNESS!

SCREECH!



THERE'S YOUR NEW ENGLAND WITCH FOR YOU -- JUST A HARMLESS KITTY!

SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL! I'M GOING TO ADOPT HER!



I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND! SHE WON'T LET ME GET NEAR HER AND YET... SHE ISN'T RUNNING AWAY!

IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH SHE WERE LEADING US SOMEWHERE!

SUDDENLY, AS THE THICKEST LEADS INTO A CLEARING--

A BUZZARD! THERE'S SOMETHING-- SINISTER ABOUT THIS PLACE!

HMM... THAT FIRE-BLACKENED STONE PILLAR-- THIS COULD BE A RELIC OF THE OLD WITCH BURNINGS!



THAT CAT IS ACTING STRANGELY.. AS THOUGH SHE WANTED ME TO TOUCH THE PILLAR!

DON'T DO IT, CURT! PLEASE, I-- I'M AFRAID!



NONSENSE, ELLEN! THERE'S NO HARM IN TOUCHING-- YE GODS! WHAT'S THAT?

MERCIFUL HEAVENS!



THEY'RE ALIVE -- FLAMING! I... I'M BURNING UP!

COME ON, HONEY-- WE'LL MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!



**S**UDDENLY, EMERGING FROM THE FELINE SHAPE--  
A TERRIFYING TRANSFORMATION!



THE CAT-- IT'S  
TURNING INTO A  
WOMAN!

GREAT SCOTT-- IT... IT'S  
NOT POSSIBLE!

MAYBE  
IT'S A  
NIGHT-  
MARE--  
A DREAM!

NO, FOOLS-- I AM A **SPIRIT**--  
THE SPIRIT OF **HESTER MATHER**!  
THREE CENTURIES AGO THIS WAS **MY**  
HOME --UNTIL THEY BURNED ME AS  
A WITCH AT THE STAKE IN  
YONDER FIELD!



BUT THE EVIL IN MY  
SPIRIT WAS NOT DESTROYED!  
ONE DAY EACH CENTURY I  
RETURN TO FIND A  
**VICTIM-- WHO**  
**MUST PERISH**  
**AS I DID!**



YOU ESCAPED ME ONCE  
TODAY, WOMAN-- BUT  
YOU WILL NOT ELUDE  
ME AGAIN!

WAIT! WHY  
MUST SHE  
PERISH?



BECAUSE EITHER **SHE** BURNS BEFORE  
NIGHTFALL. OR **MY OWN SPIRIT**  
**WILL BE DESTROYED!**

I DON'T  
INTEND TO  
ALLOW  
THAT!

HELP ME,  
CURT!  
OHhhh!

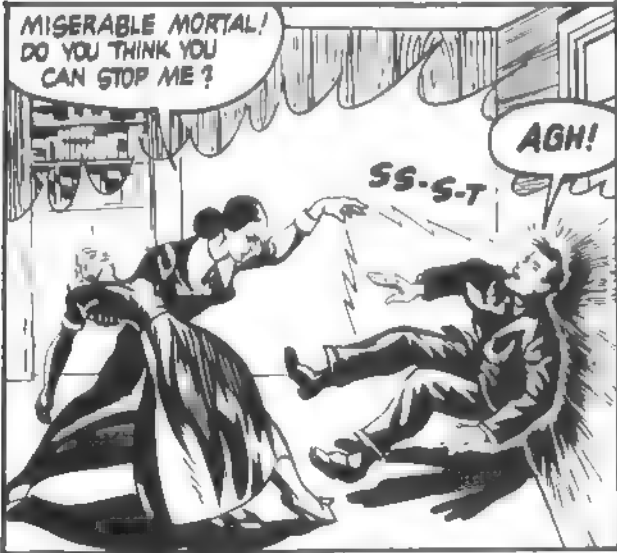
THIS IS  
ONE VICTIM  
YOU'RE  
**NOT**  
GOING  
TO HAVE!



**B**UT AS CURT ADVANCED TO RESCUE ELLEN, HE WAS  
MET BY A FEARSOME, PARALYZING FORCE!

FOOL! FOR INTERFERING, YOU TOO, SHALL  
BE DESTROYED! LISTEN-- WHILE I  
SUMMON MY COHORT!

MISERABLE MORTAL!  
DO YOU THINK YOU  
CAN STOP ME?



AGH!

SS-S-T



**THEN, AFTER THE WITCH'S WEIRD INCANTATION--  
A HIDEOUS APPARITION!**



YOU SENT FOR  
ME, O  
MISTRESS?

YES! YON DAZED  
WRETCH DARED TO  
OPPOSE ME! CARRY  
HIM OFF TO THE  
DREAD REALM  
BEYOND!

HIS DOOM  
IS SEALED!  
AND NOW,  
MY LOVELY  
ONE-- **THE  
STAKE!**



**M**OMENTS LATER, REVIVED  
BY THE COLD AIR--



YE GODS--WHAT AM I DOING UP **HERE?**  
AND THIS DEMON-- AH, NOW I REMEMBER!  
THE **WITCH**-- SHE'S GOT ELLEN! I'VE GOT  
TO SAVE HER-- BUT **HOW?** HMM-- THAT  
LAKE BELOW-- GIVES ME  
A CHANCE! AND  
HERE-- **GOES!**

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE  
ELEMENT OF **SURPRISE--**  
WHEN YOU **ATTACK!**



**ARGHHH!**

**WHAM!**

IF I CAN ONLY HOLD ON--A  
FEW SECONDS MORE--  
TILL WE-- **CRASH!**



**YAAAA!**

**DID  
IT!**

I THOUGHT SO! THE  
DEMON **VANISHED**  
WHEN WE HIT THE WATER!  
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT  
BUT A COLUMN OF  
**STEAM!**







THIS IS THE SAME THICKET WHERE WE SAW THE STONE STAKE! MAYBE I CAN STILL GET THERE IN TIME-- I'VE GOT TO!

MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY--

THERE! NOW WE'RE READY FOR THE CEREMONY WHICH WILL GUARANTEE MY IMMORTALITY FOR ANOTHER CENTURY!

NO, YOU FIEND-- NO!



AND NOW-- RISE, MY FOLLOWERS-- RISE!

OHNN!

AS ELLEN'S CRY OF TERROR ECHOES THROUGH THE WOODS--



HELP!

ELLEN... SHE'S STILL ALIVE! BUT I'D NEVER GET TO HER IN TIME -- EVEN IF I COULD STOP THOSE DEMONS! WAIT--



THE WATER DOWN THERE... THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! THOSE FIENDS ARE AFRAID OF WATER!

THEY WERE AFRAID TO CROSS THE STREAM, AND THE CREEP WHO DIVED INTO THE LAKE EVAPORATED INTO STEAM! IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IT'S MY ONLY HOPE!



AND NOW, IT IS TIME FOR YOUR FIERY DOOM-- WHICH WILL BRING ME ANOTHER CENTURY OF LIFE! BEHOLD!

**S**UDDENLY, THE EVIL SPIRIT OF HESTER MATHER IS TRANSFORMED INTO A FLAMING TORCH--

LET THE FLAMES ASCEND TO SCORCH AND CONSUME!



**B**UT ON THE NEARBY HILLTOP--

THERE! I'VE GOT MY FINGERS CROSSED--THAT WATER HAS GOT TO WORK!



A FLOOD!  
THE DAM  
-IT'S  
BROKEN!

THE WATER--NO!  
**YAAAGH!**



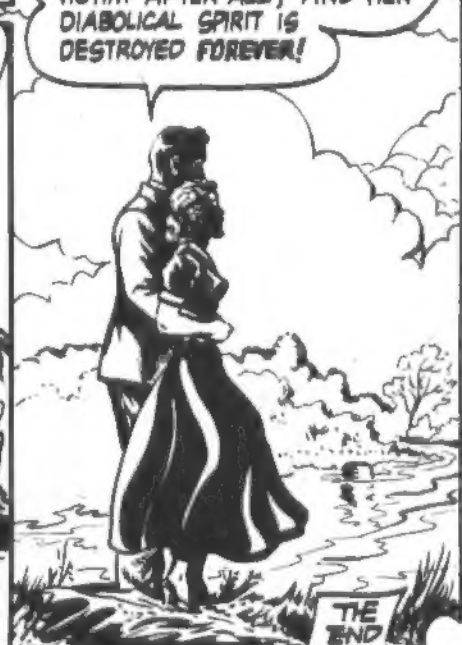
WH-WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
THERE'S  
NOTHING  
LEFT BUT  
COLUMNS  
OF STEAM!

ELLEN, ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

CURT,  
YOU'RE  
SAFE!  
THANK  
GOODNESS!

NO, THANK THE WATER!  
THAT'S WHAT DID THE  
TRICK!-- THE ONE  
THING THEY  
COULDN'T  
WITHSTAND!

IT'S ALL OVER NOW, HONEY!  
HESTER MATHER DIDN'T GET HER  
VICTIM AFTER ALL, AND HER  
DIABOLICAL SPIRIT IS  
DESTROYED FOREVER!



THE  
END

# see through walls

the  
man  
from



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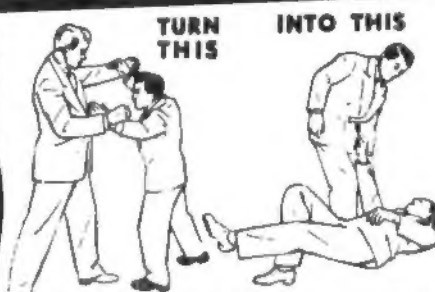


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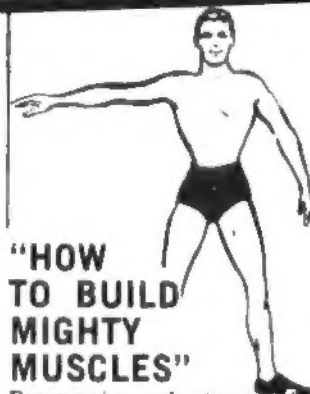
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